

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 TAR-02 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07

SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 L-03 H-03 DRC-01 /168 W

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FM AMCONSUL BREMEN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1427

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, EFTA, XG

SUBJECT: EC/EFTA RULES OF ORIGIN

REF: (A) STATE A-4058; (B) STATE 58443

1. NATIONWIDE SURVEY OF IMPACT OF R/O MADE IN APRIL 1973 (REFTEL B) WAS CARRIED OUT BY SOME CONSTITUENT POSTS IN FRG THROUGH WRITTEN QUESTIONNAIRES. ACCORDING TO BREMEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE WORKING GROUP ON TARIFF MATTERS OF THE ROOF ORGANIZATION OF GERMAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (DEUTSCHER INDUSTRIEUND HANDELSTAG - DIHT) CONSIDERED SUCH QUERYING QUOTE INCOMMENSURATE WITH GOOD DIPLOMATIC STYLE UNQUOTE. GROUP WAS OF OPINION THAT SURVEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN ROUTED THROUGH OR AT LEAST COORDINATED WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. WHILE LOCAL CHAMBER WAS RECEPTIVE TO EXPLANATION FOR CONDUCTING

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SURVEY, FACT REMAINED THAT CHAMBERS WOULD ADVISE MEMBERS NOT TO ANSWER QUESTIONNAIRES IF QUERIED ABOUT THEM. BREMEN CIRCUM-

VENTED THIS DIFFICULTY BY OBTAINING RESPONSES FROM LOCAL BUSINESSMEN THROUGH PERSONAL CALLS.

2. SINCE PERSONNEL SHORTAGE AND SCOPE AND DETAIL OF SURVEY REQUESTED IN REF A LEAVES CONGEN NO OTHER CHOICE THAN SENDING OUT QUESTIONNAIRES, MATTER WAS DISCUSSED WITH BREMEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SO AS TO AVOID UNFAVORABLE EARLIER REACTION. CHAMBER APPEARED SYMPATHETIC TO SURVEY BUT STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT SURVEY BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCE MINISTRIES AS WELL AS DIHT AND THAT THEY BE REQUESTED TO SECOND SURVEY BY ENCOURAGING RESPONSES. CHAMBER RAISED SERIOUS OBJECTIONS TO QUESTION F (1) IN ATTACHMENT 1 TO A-4058. CONGEN HAS REPHRASED QUESTION TO INQUIRE ABOUT QUOTE LIBERAL IMPLEMENTATION UNQUOTE OF R/O, SINCE CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES APPEAR TO HAVE SOME DISCRETION IN INTERPRETING RULES. UNCLASSIFIED GERMAN TEXT OF QUESTIONNAIRE TOGETHER WITH INTRODUCTORY EXPLANATION FOR REASONS OF SURVEY DEVELOPED BY CONGEN IS BEING TELEXED SEPARATELY TO EMBASSY AND CONSTITUENT POSTS.

3. BREMEN CHAMBER INFORMED CONGEN THAT UNDER DIHT AUSPICES IT MAILED QUESTIONNAIRES ON SAME SUBJECT, ALTHOUGH IN BROADER SCOPE WITH RESPECT TO COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION TO 76 LOCAL FIRMS IN JANUARY 1974. 36 FIRMS RESPONDED TO THIS SURVEY, WITH ONLY THREE REPORTING SLIGHT DIFFICULTIES NOT REPEAT NOT RESULTING IN SWITCH TO ORIGIN SOURCING. THESE THREE FIRMS AS WELL AS OTHERS VOICING OTHER COMPLAINTS WILL BE INCLUDED IN CONGEN SURVEY WITH CHAMBER AS SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION KEPT IN STRICT CONFIDENCE. COPY OF CHAMBER QUESTIONNAIRE BEING MAILED TO EMBASSY AND CONSTITUENT POSTS.

4. CHAMBERS THROUGHOUT FRG REPORTED RESULTS OF THEIR SURVEYS TO MR. HAUBENREISSER OF ZOLLREFERAT OF DIHT IN BONN. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THIS ORGANIZATION TO OBTAIN RESULTS OF CONSOLIDATED SURVEY. BREMEN CHAMBER INFORMED CONGEN IN CONFIDENCE THAT FINDINGS GAVE SUFFICIENT RISE TO CONCERN TO PREPARE PAPER TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL STATE THAT CURRENT EC/EFTA R/O IMPRACTICABLE. GOVERNMENT EXPECTED TO BE RECEPTIVE TO THIS ASSERTION SINCE CUSTOMS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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AUTHORITIES HAVE ARGUED SAME POINT. DIHT EXPECTED TO RECOMMEND AMENDMENT OF CURRENT R/O TO TWO CRITERIA, TO WIT (A) CHANGE OF TARIFF CLASSIFICATION, AND (B) ACROSS-THE-BOARD 50 PERCENT CLAUSE FOR NON-ORIGIN COMPONENTS AND MATERIALS. USENIK

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